

## **Recycling Public Advisory Council**

### **Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 27, 2017**

**Location:**       **Public Service Commission Conference Room, Cannon Building**  
861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Suite 203, Dover, DE 19904

**Members present:**       Stan Mills, Chairman (League of Local Governments)  
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)  
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)  
Marianne Cinaglia (Public)  
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)  
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)  
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)  
Sewall McCabe (Soda Beverage Industry)  
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)  
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)  
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)  
Rustyn Stoops (Del. Chamber of Commerce)  
Vikram Krishnamurthy (Public)

**Members absent:**       Wendy Turner (Public)  
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)  
Steve Masterson (Waste Masters Solutions)

**Non-members present:** Don Long (DNREC)                   Phoebe Penaman (DNS)  
Jackie Howard (DNREC)  
Julia Haas (DNREC)  
Nancy Marker (DNREC)

#### **Call to Order, Introductions**

Meeting called to order by Chair at approximately 1:05pm

#### **Public Comments**

- Correspondence: n/a
- Members of Public: n/a

#### **Approval of:**

- Meeting Minutes of 8/23/2017: approved

#### **Council Membership**

- New members (Vikram Krishnamurthy, Rustyn Stoop, and Sewall McCabe) announced and introduced
- Vacancies discussed – One remaining seat representing a community based-public interest group is awaiting appointment by the Governor. Phoebe Penaman, Delaware Nature Society, (DNS) has applied for this position..

#### **Committee Reports**

- Outreach/Education Updates:

- Jackie Howard announced that the media campaign went live on 9/18/2017. Don Long briefly presented print and audio components. Both welcomed feedback.
    - Coralie Pryde commended the inclusion of plastic bag education.
- Measurements Committee: Stan Mills stated that the measurements committee received and approved updates for DSM's report on "State of Delaware Assessment of Municipal Solid Waste for Calendar Year of 2016."

### **Old Business**

- Status of Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program: Jackie Howard stated that Cycles 7 and 8 are currently resolving; and, due to lack of funding, there are no plans for a Cycle 9.
  - Jackie also reported that she is following up with select past grant recipients and met with Inland Bays recently. Inland Bays received a grant in 2014 and have continued their program.
  - Stan Mills expressed that having grant "success stories" could help defend RPAC's request for additional funds from the Governor. Stan also asked if there was a possibility of the UR Grant program having "leftover" money following Cycle 8. Nancy Marker (in attendance) answered that is likely but DNREC would need time to come back with an approximate estimate.

### **New Business**

- Don Long reported on the recycling telephone survey conducted by Responsive Management, and introduced Mark Damian Duda, executive director.
  - Mark Duda gave a comprehensive presentation of the recycling survey results.
- 2018 meeting schedule was discussed. Stan Mills proposed maintaining the standard meeting day of the fourth Wednesday of each month.
  - Concern was raised over overlapping with the Legislative calendar.
    - Marjorie Crofts suggested moving all meetings that occur while the Legislative body is in session to Dover. She also made the suggestion to not alter the date or time of the regular meetings, only making exceptions on an "as needed" basis; Mike Parkowski supported this proposal.
  - Stan Mills also introduced the topic of keeping all meetings in a single static location central to Dover. Mike Parkowski mentioned that there is more public attendance when the meetings alternate counties, and there was a general agreement to keep the rotation schedule
    - Don Long and Julia Haas voiced that DNREC is working towards the goal of keeping a static meeting location in each county.
  - Marjorie Crofts suggested moving the schedule December meeting to accommodate the holiday season. General agreement made to move the December RPAC meeting to 12/12/2017.
- Stan Mills introduced the topic of the RPAC Annual Report, citing an excerpt from SB234. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> RPAC Annual Report.
  - Don Long reviewed the Annual Reports from previous years and reported that the format and content has remained very consistent. He added that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Report was the only report to include a "Status of previous recommendations" section.
  - Stan Mills asked for suggestions moving forward, stating that he would like to pare down the length report to make it more easily readable.
  - Dick Cecil stated that he thinks the Executive Summary is the only portion read.
  - Marjorie Crofts proposed that the report only give full/expanded recommendations instead of both an abridged list and an expanded one. Stan Mills asked DNREC if the report could be kept to only the minimum information required by UR Law. Marjorie

Crofts stated that the report is valuable and that a list of imbedded hyperlinks would make for easier navigation.

- It was decided for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Report that RPAC will continue to produce a complete annual report; however, in lieu of distributing the entire report to the Governor and our legislators, RPAC will only distribute the full recommendations and include hyperlinks to the entire report.
- Mike Parkowski reviewed the annual DSM Report “State of Delaware Assessment of Municipal Solid Waste Recycling for Calendar Year of 2016.”
  - Stated that the DSM Report is the basis for the recycling rate percentage referenced in the RPAC Annual Report. Mike Parkowski reported that there has been an increase in commercial recycling rates, largely due to cardboard, and in yard waste recycling. However, single stream rates are lower than in previous years. Mike hypothesizes that the decrease is due to an elimination of contamination from the single stream. The current MSW Recycling rate stands at 44%.
- Mike Parkowski also reported on a change in ownership of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at the Delaware Recycling Center.
  - Republic Waste Services bought out ReCommunity Waste Recycling, official as of 10/2/2017.
    - DSWA is not anticipating any major change in MRF operations or accepted materials
    - Mike Parkowski reminded the council that DSWA still owns the land and building and is committed to its continued operation.

### **Legislative Updates**

- Marjorie Crofts reported that there has been a change in the Plastic Bag Bill
  - As of June 2018, companies owning stores with 7,000 sq. ft. of retail sales space, or three or more retail locations, each having at least 3,000 sq. ft. of retail sales space will be required to report to the State.

### **Recycling Market Update**

- Paul Bickhart reported that the recycling markets are holding steady. He went on to comment that China’s new import policy will go into effect in December 2017, and he is concerned for the future export market. However, nothing can be reliably predicted at this moment.

### **Additional Public Comments**

- None

### **Discuss Future Agenda Content**

- Marianne Cignalia spoke about reaching out to DuPont and/or the University of Delaware regarding former employees as a plastic expert resource. Don Long asked for names.

### **Next Meeting**

- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Delaware Recycling Center in New Castle, 1pm. Tour of the facility to follow meeting.
  - Stan Mills asked for as many people to attend as possible.
  - Mike Parkowski warned everyone to “please dress appropriately”, i.e. no open toed shoes, heels, or loose clothing.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:02pm.